

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 03344 221936Z  
ACTION IO-06

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 781  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 3344

LIMDIS

FODAG

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS/ AORG, WFP, APER  
SUBJECT: DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTORSHIP

REF: (A) USUN 00605 (B) BRASILIA 1276 (C) STTE 42013

1. WITH REGARD KEY ISSUES OF FAO DG SAOUMA IN PARA 8 OF REFTEL, IT APPARENT TO US THAT BRITO IS SAOUMA'S CANDIDATE, NOT VOGEL'S AND MAY WELL BE EXPECTED TO BE SAOUMA'S EYES AND EARS AT TOP LEVEL OF WFP. WHILE BRITO IS ABLE AND ENERGETIC, WE CANNOT BELIEVE VOGEL CAN REALLY BE VERY ENTHUSIASTIC. IT IS EQUALLY APPARENT THAT SAOUMA WILL RESIST STRONGLY ANY DEFLECTION OF BRITO'S APPOINTMENT AS HE WILL REGARD IT AS AN ISSUE INVOLVING HIS AUTHORITY, SHARED WITH SYG WALDHEIM, OVER WFP.

2. FURTHERMORE, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT UNLESS WALDHEIM GETS A VERY SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF FLAK FROM U.S. AND OTHERS ON BRITO, HE WILL NOT WANT TO TAKE ON SAOUMA. HE ALREADY HAS ENOUGH TENSION WITH FAO AND WILL SHORTLY HAVE ANOTHER TRICLY ISSUE ON WHICH TO DEAL WITH SAOUMA ON INVOLVING  
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WHETHER TO PICK UP THE INDUSTRY COOPERATIVE PROGRAM  
SAOUMA HAS DISCARDED.

3. THEREFORE, WE NEED FIRST TO DECIDE WHETHER THIS ISSUE IS ONE ON WHICH WE WANT TO EXPAND CREDIT IN CAPITALS AS SUGGESTED BY BOTH REFTELS AND PUT HIGH ON OUR LIST OF ARGUMENTS WITH SAOUMA. SECONDLY, WE

WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE WHAT OUR PROSPECTS OF WINNING THE CASE ARE AND HOW HIGH THE COSTS OF WINNING ARE. THRIDLY, WE HAVE TO DECIDE HOW MUCH OF OUR CONSIDERABLE LEVERAGE AS WFP'S MAIN SUPPORTER WE ARE WILLING TO STAKE OR THREATEN TO STAKE TO WIN THE CASE.

4. WE ASSUME DEPARTMENT HAS REFLECTED ON THE ABOVE AND DECIDED THAT KEEPING BRITO OUT OF WFP HAS VERY HIGH PRIORTY AND THAT WE ARE WILLIING TO PAY PRICE OF ANTAGONIZING BRITO--ONE OF MORE ABLE AND INFLUENTIAL GROUP OF 77 ACTIVISTS IN UN SYSTEM WHO WILL BE AROUND FOR SOME TIME--AND TAKING ON SAOUMA.

5. HAD WE BEEN CONSULTED BOFORE EFFORT LAUNCHED, WE WOULD HAVE QUESTIONED WHETHER BRITO HAS CAPACITY TO DO U.S. MUCH HARM IN WFP WHERE SAOUMA KNOWS PRETTY WELL WHAT'S GOING ON ANYWAY. WE HAVE SUBSTANTIAL LEVERAGE THERE AND BRITO WOULD BE BRACKETED AS HE WOULD BE BETWEEN VOGEL AND AN AMERICAN PROJECT MANAGEMENT CHIEF. AT THIS POINT, WE WOULD SERIOUSLY QUESTION MOUNTING A MULTILATERAL EFFORT TO BLOCK HIM EVEN THOUGH HE IS FAR FROM AN IDEAL CHOICE FROM OUR STAND-POINT. IF WALDHEIM IS WILLING TO EXERCISE HIS EQUAL RIGHTS WITH SAOUMA, WELL AND GOOD. BUT CANADA IS UNLIKELY TO EMBARRASS VOGEL BY MAKING A MOVE, AND LONDON IS UNLIKELY TO ACT DECISIVELY. BONN, PARIS, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND CANBERRA ARE POSSIBILITIES BUT DOUBT THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS WOULD E PREPARED TO MAKE AN ISSUE OF THIS.

6. IN CONCLUSION, OUR BEST JUDGMENT WOULD BE TO TALK DIRECTLY WITH WALDHEIM I THE MATTER IS TO BE PURSUED AND TO MAKE JUDGMENTS ON GOING TO CAPITALS OR GOING TO SAOUMA ONLY AFTER THAT IS DONE. WE WOULD ADVISE PRECEDING WITH SOME CAUTION.GARDNER

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